



The Sustainable Pioneer

http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/

October- November 2004

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provides
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DRCOG Helps NREL Employees with Commuting Options

Last month, Sustainable NREL sent out a global email presenting DRCOG Ride Arranger's Vanpool and Carpool Plus programs. 29 NREL employees signed up for the Vanpool program while 53 were interested in Carpool Plus. DRCOG had a campaign to kick off these programs and those of you who signed up all got \$10 gas cards. In addition, DRCOG gave out gift certificates for Barnes and Noble. Sharon Nelson and Darren Peterson each received a \$10 gift card and Kathee Roque received the \$25 gift certificate. Congratulations and thanks to all of you for exploring carpooling as a viable commuting alternative.

The Vanpool program provides full-sized vans for up to 12 passengers or minivans that hold up to seven. Vanpoolers pay a low monthly fare and RideArrangers covers the cost of gas, insurance and vehicle maintenance (including 24-hour roadside assistance). Riders save wear and tear on their vehicles while saving wear and tear on the environment. Drivers are also needed for this program and if you qualify, you can get the cost of your monthly commute covered by RideArrangers while getting the use of the van you drive for personal trips. If the Vanpool program does not suit your needs, RideArrangers also offers the Carpool Plus program. This is a FREE ridematching service that helps you find other commuters who live and work near you who also want to carpool. While keeping the environment cleaner, you can also use the HOV lanes and leave the traffic behind!



Both of these programs are covered by the Guaranteed Ride Home program. If an emergency arises on a day that you carpool or vanpool, RideArrangers will cover the cost of cab fare up to 100 miles one way, including any stops that relate to your emergency.

For more information on either one of these programs or Schoolpool, go to DRCOG's website at: <http://www.carpoolplus.org/>

NREL 2003-2004 Sustainability Report completed



Sustainable NREL has recently completed a Sustainability Report for the Laboratory. This report covers the Laboratory's performance in such areas as transportation, natural gas/electricity, water, green purchasing, waste disposal/recycling, and CO2 emissions. The data was collected in 2003 and will provide a meaningful baseline for future reporting in these categories.

The report is available through NREL's Publication Database: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy05osti/36786.pdf> There are also hard-copies that are printed on treeless paper. Defining where the Laboratory stands in terms of its environmental footprint is an important step in defining possible areas of improvement.

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KUDOS

Energy Retrofit projects are an important way to save energy on our existing buildings and the following story illustrates how NREL employees can make a difference. Chris Gaul thought that the existing air compressor at the FTLB was not working efficiently. He tested the compressor with a borrowed airflow meter and transducer from Buildings, a laptop computer from Metrology, and a power meter from Site Operations. He found that the air compressor was not performing optimally. To solve this problem, the air compressor was refitted with a variable speed drive. This retrofit has saved 9.0kW per hour and since the compressor runs continuously, the savings are significant.

Thanks to Chris and the other NREL employees involved with this project: Otto Van Geet, Anna Hoenmans, Donna Rigau, Bob Westby, John Shaffer, Dave Lazarz, Greg Collette, and Sal Sferrazza.



Chris Gaul shows the air compressor at the FTLB, now refitted with an energy saving variable speed drive.

Quick Tip:

How about a Green Halloween!

With Halloween right around the corner, there are some things that you can do to make this Halloween a little less scary for Mother Nature. Let the kids take a pillow case or canvas bag to trick-or-treat. Compost your pumpkin or do what Mom used to do... chop it up, freeze it and make pumpkin pie with it in November. And if you have a party, remember to use reusable utensils, plates and linens. If you don't want to use your nice china, discount stores always have seasonal dishes that you can use next year!

